



# ***Indiana Department of Environmental Management***

***Source Reduction and Recycling Branch  
Office of Pollution Prevention and  
Technical Assistance***

## **Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program Annual Report**

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<b>Calendar Year 2010</b>
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## **Introduction**

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA), Source Reduction and Recycling Branch has provided grant funding and technical assistance to Indiana local units of government for the development and operation of household hazardous waste (HHW) and conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste (CESQG) collection programs. Since 1994, IDEM has provided 175 HHW grants and 5.8 million dollars in support to communities and solid waste management districts. This funding helped start and expand HHW programs or activities, safe management of household hazardous products, and educate residents about preferred disposal options for HHW.

## **Suspension of HHW Grant Program**

Currently, as all levels of government around the country are managing budget reductions, the state of Indiana is committed to keeping all essential governmental services running smoothly and effectively during these difficult times. Therefore, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in December of 2008 temporarily suspended state-funded grant and loan programs for business and local government recycling and pollution prevention projects, including the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program.

Due to the suspension of the grant program, no projects were funded in 2009, and no money was expended through the grants program. Until the fiscal situation is resolved, no estimate of money required to meet grant requests or recommended changed to the program will be provided through this annual report. IDEM continues to provide technical assistance to Indiana residents, local government and businesses on HHW and CESQG collection and management issues, including household pharmaceutical and sharps waste management.

## **Technical Assistance and Support**

The following sections provide brief updates on IDEM technical assistance, the activities the agency has been involved with to educate residents and businesses about how their communities can reduce HHW and CESQG generation and improper disposal, and the operations of Indiana HHW programs.

### **Indiana HHW Task Force**

IDEM continues to work with the Indiana Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, Inc. (IHHWTF) and communities to address HHW issues throughout the state. With IDEM technical assistance, the Task Force promotes the proper, environmentally-safe collection, recycling, and disposal of household hazardous waste. Its 53 members include solid waste management districts, cities, towns, counties and companies that manage or provide HHW services. Since 2000, regional cooperative HHW grants (funded by IDEM) and local funding have supported IHHWTF members in diverting more than 3.4 million pounds of HHW from being poured down the drain, on the ground, or ending up in solid waste landfills.

### **Pharmaceuticals**

The proper disposal of expired or unwanted medicines is an issue that has received increased concern among the public, environmentalists and governmental agencies in recent years. Products of concern include prescription, over-the-counter medications and personal care products. Improper disposal of medicines presents both a public safety and environmental hazard. Studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have

shown that pharmaceuticals are present in our lakes and streams. Expired or unwanted medicines, if flushed down the toilet or drain, are a source of pollution in wastewater. Because sewage treatment plants are not designed to deal with pharmaceutical waste, these chemicals can be released into streams, lakes, and groundwater and affect fish and other aquatic wildlife.

IDEM has provided technical assistance to communities, SWMDs, and organizations to establish pharmaceutical collection programs, including:

- Spring and Fall 2009 Marsh pharmaceutical and sharps collections sponsored by Marsh Pharmacy, the Indiana Poison Center, CLS/MedTurn, Statewide Medical Services, and IDEM.
- A November 2009 workshop attended by 120 pharmacists, medical professionals, state and local government officials, waste-water treatment managers, and hazardous and solid waste program managers (see photo).
- Assistance to cooperating entities in a regional effort to expand or start up pharmaceutical or sharps collection programs in 17 counties or cities. The programs provide pharmaceutical or sharps education, collection and disposal services to residents.



## HHW Collection Around the State

Household hazardous waste programs collect waste that otherwise would be improperly disposed of by dumping in a ditch, poured down drains or storm sewers, or disposed in landfills. Forty-one HHW programs, serving 72 percent of Indiana residents, provided IDEM HHW collection information for 2009. Information on local HHW collection programs can be found at [www.in.gov/recycle/5724.htm](http://www.in.gov/recycle/5724.htm).

2009 HHW Program Collections	
Hazardous Waste	2,674 tons
Mercury	103 tons
Used Motor Oil	130,000 gallons
E-waste	1,370 tons
Tires	220,000 tires
Appliances	127,000 appliances
Sharps	24 tons

Most programs that provide HHW services also collect problem materials because of the lack of services for these materials and public demand. Problem materials include mercury and mercury-containing items, used oil, electronics, tires, appliances, and sharps. These problem

materials contain toxic or hazardous components, are difficult to safely dispose of, and improper disposal can create environmental and health hazards (see chart).

## **Conclusion**

IDEM technical support and grants have provided important support for the growth of HHW programs and services in Indiana. HHW programs educate residents on safe storage and management of household chemicals which helps prevent accidental poisoning of children and household accidents. HHW programs provide a way for residents to safely dispose of used motor oil, gasoline, pesticides and other hazardous products used in the home, making homes safer and reducing hazards for fire fighters. The hazardous and problem waste collected and properly disposed by HHW programs is diverted from disposal in Indiana lakes, streams, storm drains, and ravines, reducing pollution and clean-up cost for Indiana communities. For more information on IDEM HHW reduction efforts, visit [www.recycle.in.gov](http://www.recycle.in.gov).